

WE CLAIM:

2 1. A ferrule for an optical fiber connector comprising:
4 a capillary having a pair of opposing ends, an outer surface extending
between the opposing ends and a hole extending between the opposing ends for insertion
of an optical fiber strand therein;

6 a flange molded onto the capillary outer surface intermediate the capillary
opposing ends such that the capillary outer surface proximate each opposing end is not
covered by the molded flange.

2 2. The ferrule of claim 1, wherein the flange is molded from a plastic
material.

2 3. The ferrule of claim 1, further comprising a recess portion and a
complementary projecting portion extending into the recess portion, the recess portion
and projecting portion being formed at an interface between the capillary outer surface
4 and the flange.

2 4. The ferrule of claim 3, wherein the recess portion is formed in the
capillary outer surface and the projecting portion is formed integral with the flange.

2 5. The ferrule of claim 3, wherein the recess portion is formed integral with
the flange and the projecting portion is formed in the capillary outer surface.

2 6. The ferrule of claim 1, wherein the flange has a cylindrical outer surface
comprising a large diameter portion and a small diameter portion.

7. A method for manufacturing a ferrule for an optical fiber connector
comprising the step of molding a flange onto an outer surface of a capillary intermediate
opposing ends of the capillary such that the capillary outer surface proximate each
opposing end is not covered by the molded flange.

8. The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 7, further
comprising the steps of:

forming a recess portion in the outer surface of the capillary prior to
molding; and

forming, integral with the flange, a complementary projecting portion that
extends intimately into the recess portion of the capillary outer surface during molding of
the flange.

9. The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 7, further
comprising the steps of:

forming a projecting portion in the outer surface of the capillary; and
filling a space surrounding the projecting portion with a molding material during
molding.